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Remarks/Arguments

In paragraph 1 of the Action, the specification was objected to because of inconsistency.

In reply thereof, applicant has corrected the inconsistency.

In paragraphs 2-3 of the Action, claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP'786 in view of Arbogast et al.

In reply thereto, applicant has amended the claims to define applicant's invention more clearly over the prior art of record.

As clearly defined in the amended claims, applicant's invention comprises at least one of the supported portions having an asymmetric shape with respect to both the opposed direction and the arrangement direction of the contact portions and at least one of the holding portions having a corresponding shape for receiving the asymmetric shape of the supported portion.

With respect to the prior art, JP'786 discloses an electrical connector connection system and an intermediate board supporting system.

Arbogast et al. disclose a circuit board retainer comprising a frame 102 fitting around a connector 500 and having upright members 116 with board catches 118. The

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upright members 116 snap back into place when the notches 512 of a board 506 align with the catches 118.

However, none of the above references disclose or suggest any supported portion having an asymmetric shape with respect to both the opposed direction and the contact portion arrangement direction.

The Action states, "Arbogast, figs. 5-7 show at least one of the support portions (right side) provided at ends of the circuit board 506 having an asymmetric shape for receiving in a corresponding shape of at least one the holding portions 116."

However, the circuit board 506 has a pair of notches 512 which are symmetric with respect to the opposed direction. In other words, the notches 512 are provided mirror images to each other with respect to the vertical center of the board 506. Thus, the notches 512 cannot prevent the board 506 from being inserted into the retainer 100 in the front side back or vice versa. In Arbogast et al., it is the connection portion of the board 506, which is provided asymmetric with respect to the vertical center, that prevents insertion in the front side back or vice versa.

As to claim 2, the Action stated that a rectangular section at lower end side (right side) of the supported portion of the circuit board is read as the recited raised portion.

However, applicant cannot find the "rectangular section at lower end side of the supported portion" in Figs. 5-7 and respectfully requests for a marked up figure to help

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understanding so that applicant can make an appropriate reply. Applicant see a notch 512 provided in the supported portion of a board 506 but no raised portion extending from the supported portion in the arrangement direction.

In claim 3, the Action stated that a cut off portion 512 of the supported portion at asymmetric position and a projection 518 [sic] of the holding portion being plugged into the cut-off portion.

However, the notch 512 of the supported portion is not asymmetric with respect to the opposed direction or vertical center of the board 506 as set forth above.

For these reasons, it is submitted that claims 1-3 are patentable over JP'786 in view of Arbogast et al.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon does not appear to be any more pertinent with respect to the amended claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that this application be reconsidered, claims 1-3 allowed, and the case passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

TAKEUCHI & TAKEUCHI

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Y. Takeuchi".

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